

• COLORADO RIVER • AQUEDUCT NEWS

h THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Vol. IX

August 31, 1942

No. 8

Aqueduct Delivers "Water For War" When Vitally Needed By Army, Factories, Homes

Water for War!

To meet America's ever mounting production of ships, tanks, bombers, and all manner of fighting weapons, Southern California is tapping its vast iron ore resources. But blast furnaces and steel mills of the ultimate capacity planned require thousands of gallons of water a minute—more water than can be secured from local sources in the vicinity of the proposed plants.

Before such an industrial center is authorized by the Government—before it can be undertaken by its operators—there must be positive assurance of a plentiful and dependable water supply.

To the offices of the Metropolitan Water District comes an urgent inquiry. The answer is prompt. Yes, all of the water required may be obtained from the Colorado River Aqueduct. Terms and conditions are set forth. The huge new industry is under way.

Throughout the length and breadth of these United States the call goes out for rubber. Rubber—hundreds of thousands of tons of synthetic rubber must be produced—immediately! Great oil refineries in Southern California stand ready to provide basic materials. But synthetic rubber plants of the huge producing capacity vitally needed require thousands upon thousands of gallons of water every minute of the day. Local water resources within reach of such proposed plants are limited—inadequate. How then can such plants be built and operated in this territory? Can the Colorado River Aqueduct supply the quantities needed? Once more the answer is prompt and to the point. Yes, all of the water required can and will be made available from the aqueduct. Terms and conditions clearly are stated. There need be not one moment's

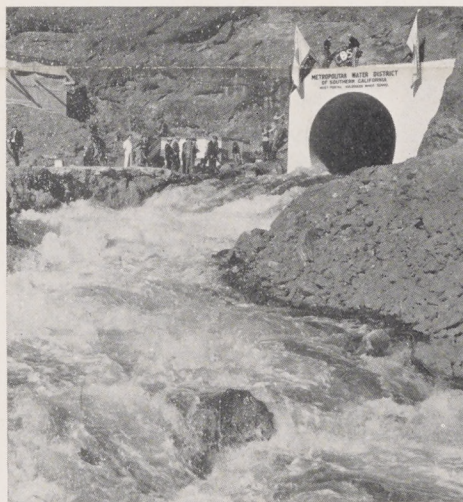
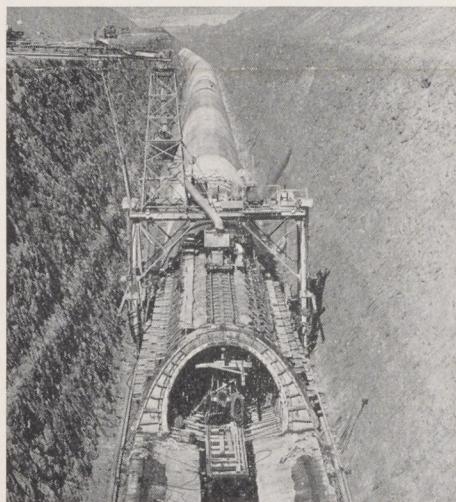
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District Building Now Serves Desert Soldiers

The District's Banning Field Headquarters, nerve center of engineering and construction work on the main aqueduct during the years that surveys and building operations were under way, is now doing war duty as a U.S.O. recreational center for thousands of soldiers.

Out on the cactus studded, sun blistered desert reaches between Indio and the Colorado River, tanks, trucks, assault cars, jeeps and peeps are roaring across shifting sands and rock-ribbed mountain barriers now serving as a training and toughing area for men of armored divisions. To the bronzed warriors, the old aqueduct Field Headquarters, standing in the cool shadows of Mount San Jacinto, has proved to be a restful change.

Use by the U. S. O. of the former aqueduct field offices and adjacent grounds was granted by the District's Board of Directors.



Water on the way to serve the vital needs of a people at war. At left, a glimpse of a Colorado River Aqueduct conduit section while under construction along about 1935. In the center photo, we see the first Colorado River water to be pumped into the aqueduct as it came tumbling through the most easterly tunnel on the line and into Gene Reservoir on January 7, 1939. At right, Lake Mathews, where billions of gallons of aqueduct water now are held in reserve storage ready to supply and protect the homes and war industries in the area of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

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 of all other citizens of the Metropolitan
 Water District.*

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Rigid Economies Keep Tax Rate At Old Level

Authorizing a program of operation and maintenance expenditures limited strictly to the minimum requirements of the aqueduct system, the Board of Directors on August 14 approved a tax rate of 48 cents per \$100.00 of assessed valuation for the fiscal year 1942-43. This is the same rate in effect during the past year.

Action of the Board was taken on the recommendation of its Finance Committee, headed by Director John R. Richards, and including Directors Herman Nelson, D. W. Pontius, John H. Ramboz, Charles T. Rippey and V. H. Rossetti.

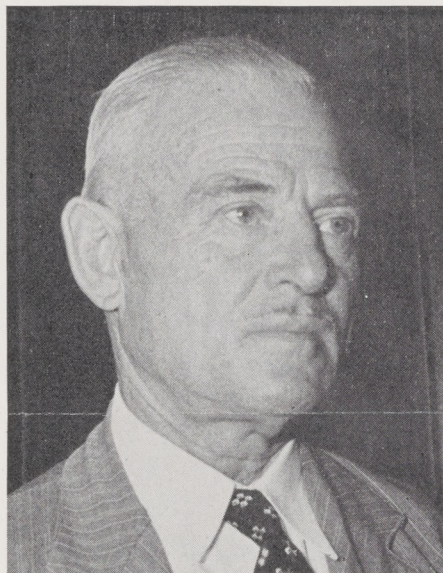
In the face of additional heavy costs arising through the necessity of taking extraordinary war precautions in guarding and protecting the 398-mile-long aqueduct system, the committee pointed out that District expenses in other operating departments sharply have been cut. As a result there will be no increase in the District's tax rate over last year.

Only five cents of the tax levy, the committee set forth in its report, will be required to cover operation and maintenance costs. The major portion of the levy, it was explained, is needed to meet the fixed charges on bonds.

The 48 cent levy, Chairman Whitsett pointed out, need not be paid by the various District cities and areas through a tax levy. Glendale and Pasadena, two of the District cities, are meeting all of their assessments by the payment of money derived from water and power revenues. Compton is paying about half of its assessment from its municipal water department revenues.

Colorado River Aqueduct water serving and protecting industries and war workers in the Metropolitan Water District area is the kind of stuff that is helping to dampen the spirits of the enemy. The next job is to "wash 'em up" completely.

Director C. C. Cravath Represents Coast Area



Director C. C. Cravath

Most recently appointed member on the Board of Directors is Judge C. C. Cravath of Laguna Beach, the representative of the Coastal Municipal Water District which was annexed to the Metropolitan Water District last June.

With many years of official experience in solving the water problems confronting the people in the Orange County South Coast territory, Judge Cravath comes to the District Board as a veteran among those Southern California civic leaders who have worked effectively to

secure additional water supplies required to meet the ever increasing needs of this region. Since 1932, he has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Laguna Beach County Water District, which is now a part of the Coastal Municipal Water District. In 1926 he was the auditor of the Laguna Beach water district.

For the past several years, Director Cravath has been Justice of the Peace and Police Judge for Laguna Beach, and recently was reelected without opposition. His dispensation of justice is characterized by the application of large portions of hard common sense, a judicial procedure that has contributed a good deal to the maintenance of the peaceful and orderly way of life in the beautiful beach community.

Older diamond fans will remember Director Cravath as one of America's greatest baseball heroes of the first two decades in this century. From 1903 to 1908 he played with the Los Angeles club in the Coast League, and then moved up into the Big Leagues. From 1912 to 1923 he was with the Philadelphia Nationals, and during the last two years was manager of the club. Most of all, he will be remembered as one of the greatest and most colorful of baseball's home run kings.

Upon his retirement from organized baseball in 1923, Director Cravath took up his permanent home in Laguna Beach. He had been making this beach community his winter home, however, ever since 1903.

In recent years, the former baseball star has modified his athletic activities.

(Continued on Page 3)

- DIRECTORY -

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Franklin Thomas, Vice-Chairman
 E. P. Hapgood, Secretary

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 Beverly Hills.....Arthur Taylor
 Burbank.....James L. Norwood
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 Los Angeles.....Victor H. Rossetti
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 Coastal Municipal
 Water District.....C. C. Cravath
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 Assistant to the General Manager.....
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Geo. R. LeBaron
 Office Engineer.....R. A. Skinner
 Senior Mechanical Engineer, R. M. Peabody
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 Assistant Treasurer.....Hortense Miller
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 Purchasing Agent.....E. W. Putnam

DIVISION ENGINEERS

Field Supt., Pumping Plants.....T. T. Walsh
 Water Purification Engineer W. W. Aultman

● MONTHLY REPORT ●

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a brief summary of some of the activities of the District as set forth in the monthly report of General Manager Julian Hinds, filed with the Board of Directors in August, 1942, covering work done in July.)

Construction

Parker Power Plant—The Bureau of Reclamation continued the installation of generating equipment and assembled the main control board in the power house. The 161 kv steel towers were erected in the switchyard and the two remaining steel penstock gates were set in the intake structure.

Orange County Feeder Extension—Surveys, soil sampling, and location of substructures on portions of the line were continued. Preparation of plan-profile drawings of definitely located sections is under way. An application for a project rating was mailed to the War Production Board on July 3, 1942.

Eagle Rock Chlorination Station—An approval of the project was received from the War Production Board, a building permit was secured from the City of Pasadena, and construction is in progress.

Operation and Maintenance

General—Additional service connections for supply of Colorado River water to the Army training centers along the main aqueduct were made at those points found to be most convenient for the service required. A substation for delivery of power to the Army was completed and put into service. Emergency patrol and guard service were maintained.

Design—Details were prepared of valved by-passes for the Los Angeles River and Compton Creek pressure regulating structures and for a plumb line installation to be made for studies at the Copper Basin Dam. Maps and other information were furnished the U. S. Engineers Office in connection with Army training activities in aqueduct areas.

Parker Dam—The water level in Lake Havasu was raised from elevation 412 to elevation 421.6. The discharge of the Colorado River at this point averaged 19,961 c.f.s.

Main Aqueduct—Operations were largely concerned with maintaining a supply of clear, fresh water for the Army at all points where diversion was requested.

Pumping Plants—Three pumping plants were operated to lift water released from Copper Basin Reservoir, in order to maintain water supply to the Army as far west as Camp Young near Shavers Summit. Routine maintenance

work was continued at all plants, on the transmission and telephone lines, and on patrol roads.

Distribution System—General maintenance of the reservoir area, recording of weather and other data, and water sampling, were continued. On July 31, 1942 the water surface in Lake Mathews was at elevation 1340.26 with 76,303 acre feet in storage. Routine plant operation and laboratory work were carried on at the Softening and Filtration Plant. Water analyses indicate all water in storage to be in good condition. The quality of Colorado River water being delivered regularly was tested. Cleaning of the Orange County Reservoir by wire brushing the sides and bottom, treating with copper sulphate, and flushing was completed and storage of water was resumed.

Hydrographic—Meetings of the Colorado River Board of California were attended and aid was given on the engineering sections of a report to the U. S. Department of State on the proposed Mexican-Colorado River water rights treaty. Discharge at Boulder was reduced from 30,109 c.f.s. early in the month to 13,678 on the last day, and averaged 21,016 c.f.s. Weather records for stations along the aqueduct were summarized and furnished at the request of the U. S. Engineers Office and the Army desert training center.

Employment—In July, 33 classified positions were filled, 21 by transfer, 7 by new employment and 5 by temporary employment. There were recorded 20 terminations, 28 changes of status, 13 employment contracts and 41 interviews.

Right of Way—One reverse lease on the Banning headquarters building was completed. The second irrigation of the citrus groves was finished and the third started this month. All trees were fertilized and inspected for pest control. The caretaker's house in the Bennett grove was painted.

Purchasing and Salvage—In July, 255 purchase orders and 2 agreements were issued amounting to approximately \$20,090.00. Freight forwardings consisted of 38 cars, of which 34 were salt and 3 were other chemicals for water softening. Cash salvage sales for the month amounted to \$17,995.60. The appraised value of salvage stock on hand at the end of the month was \$421,059.71.

Water For War

(Continued from Page 1)

delay. A new—a great—a vital industry arises in Southern California.

Nine months ago Southern California suddenly found itself a strategic sector of America's war front. Fighting men from every quarter of the country were moving into this Southwest area. Gunners, pilots, motorized infantry, armored troops—in regiments, divisions, armies—with operating bases in ever expanding military zones. Water must be provided in areas where water in such quantities never before was used. In many such localities underground water supplies already are being exhausted, or are limited and sorely needed by nearby farms and towns. But five months before the Japs sneaked in at Pearl Harbor the Metropolitan Aqueduct was placed on an operating basis and was bringing onto the Coastal Plain a flood of Colorado River water. For vast military establishments, aqueduct water has been made available. An ample, dependable supply of this basic necessity of life now serves and supports the armed and the fighting forces in this region.

After many years of above normal rainfall, the season of 1941-42 passes with rainfall well below normal. Local water levels begin once more steadily to recede. At the same time a great influx of population pushes water consumption up to all-time records. But Metropolitan Water District homes and industries stand in no danger of a crippling water shortage. The Great Aqueduct has been completed—and its new and abundant supplies of good water flow into the area of the District to meet fully and dependably the ever growing requirements of this territory in war—and in peace.

Director Cravath

(Continued from Page 2)

He now takes his daily workout by bowling on the green, and in this ancient game he, as usual, excels. Always active in community service, he now gives his time as chairman of his local sugar and tire rationing boards. In addition he organized one of the first bands of California Guerrillas. In the canyons and on the precipitous cliffs beyond the Laguna Beach surf line, he is training retired financiers, business men and artists to handle a rifle in a manner that most efficiently will rip the Nips, just in case.

Buying War Bonds is not the best bet—its the only bet.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



Presenting Miss Belle Cawley—in person. Now the Chief Operator on the District's Los Angeles telephone switchboard, she has been solving telephone problems for the Los Angeles office force since 1931. Her's is the Voice of the "Metropolitan Water District" for countless thousands who have called the M. W. D. headquarters.

R. B. Diemer, Chief Operation and Maintenance Engineer, is this month's proudest grandfather in the District organization. the grandchild is Master George Michael Parker, the mother is Mr. and Mrs. Diemer's daughter, Mrs. George Parker, the father is First Lieutenant George Parker, United States Army bomber pilot fighting in Australia. Lieut. and Mrs. Parker were married on August 16 of last year. Since last December the lieutenant has been serving with his country's dauntless air forces in the South Pacific. On the eve of their wedding anniversary, Mrs. Parker in Pasadena received a cablegram from Australia sending "love to you and our son." A few hours later on his parents first wedding anniversary, the son arrived. Weight 7 pounds, ten ounces.

First Lieutenant Ike Henderson of the U. S. Engineers en route to an undisclosed military assignment stopped over in Los Angeles one day during the past month to visit former associates in the District offices. During aqueduct construction days Ike was engaged principally in geological work with the engineering organization operating out of the Banning Field Headquarters.

Four more veterans in the service of the District were granted military leaves of absence during August and entered the armed forces of the United States. A fifth obtained leave of absence to enter military service as a civilian specialist.

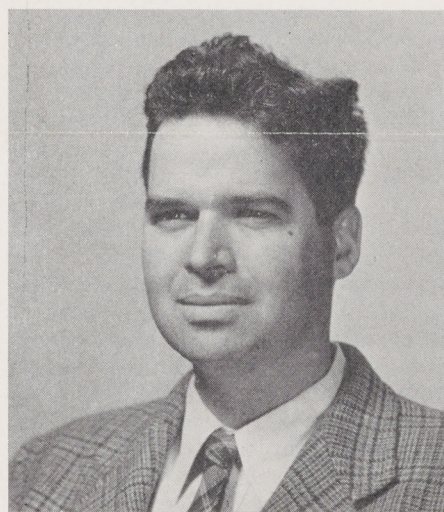
William A. Farner, attorney in the Legal Division in charge of the Compensation Claims section and a Lieutenant in the U. S. Naval Reserves, has been called into active service as an Aviation Volunteer Specialist.

Rufus Fee, Field Secretary for the Board of Directors and for many years the representative of Board Chairman Whitsett in guiding official parties over the aqueduct, enlisted in the Navy as Carpenter's Mate, 2nd Class. Rufus previously had served a hitch in the Navy.

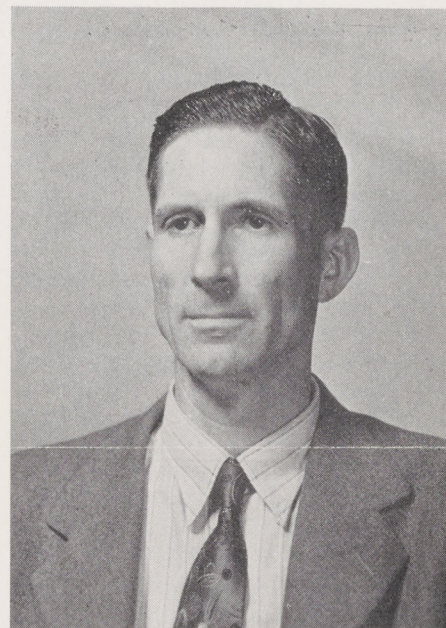
E. A. Russell, Station Chief at the Eagle and Hayfield pumping plants, was commissioned a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy. Russell is a graduate of Annapolis and served as a commissioned officer during World War I.

Jack R. Bickford, Station Operator at Iron Mountain pumping plant, has entered the Army of the United States.

Eugene V. Reynolds, Foreman in charge of the District's Los Angeles garage, has accepted an appointment as a civilian instructor in the operation and maintenance of military motor equipment, and has been attached to the 37th Coast Artillery Brigade.



Robert E. Armstrong, an Assistant Engineer in the Office Engineer's Division, has been with the District organization since July, 1935. He first engaged in field engineering work, but a few months later transferred to the Design Division in the Los Angeles offices. He took over his present duties in January of this year.



Robert Alexander Skinner, the District's Office Engineer, is a man who knows the answers—not approximately but precisely. He has been on the aqueduct job since 1933, and assumed his present duties in August, 1941. A graduate of the U. S. Submarine Officers School at Annapolis, he served with distinction in the Navy during W. W. No. 1.

Word comes that a former Aqueducter was among the battling Leathernecks who recently landed and successfully raided the Jap held Makin Island in the South Pacific. He is Herrick Ward, employed in 1940 and 1941 as a messenger and clerk in the District's Los Angeles offices. His family had been advised that Herrick was in the outfit commanded by Col. Evan F. Carlson and Major James Roosevelt who led the attacking forces. His mother, in Los Angeles, later recognized him as one of the Marines in an official photograph taken after the raiding party had returned to its base.

Top executive in the construction organization now rushing to completion the \$50,000,000 steel mill being built by the Henry J. Kaiser Company near Fontana is Frank A. Backman, who was a General Foreman on the San Jacinto tunnel link in the aqueduct system.

One of the Aqueducters out on the desert is worried. He's worried about the valuable food being consumed by post war planners. "Out on this job," he says, "we always dig the trench before we lay the pipe."

.... WATER FOR WAR